

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 20 are amended, and claims 21-22 have been added. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Drawings

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has accepted the drawings.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 7, 2004.

Specification Amendment

The specification has been amended merely to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been entered.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ksieski (U.S. 3,645,543). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

First of all, the Examiner will note that each of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 includes a non-narrowing amendment for the mere purpose of replacing the term “pivotably fitted” with the term “rotatably fitted”. These changes were made merely to more clearly set forth the structural relationship of the claimed elements, and do not further limit the claims.

Support for the features of claims 1, 8, and 15 as originally filed, and as amended herein, can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 1-3.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 as originally filed, and as amended herein, sets forth a combination of element not taught or suggested by the reference cited by the Examiner, including Ksieski.

For example, as can be seen in Kseiski FIGS. 1-4, this document merely discloses a packing capable of accommodating limited transverse relative movement of a shaft and housing sealed thereby, and fails to disclose at least the following features set forth in independent claims 1, 8, and 15 of the present invention:

“a first oil path”,

“a second oil path formed within the rotating shaft”, and

“an end portion of said rotating shaft being fitted for selectively opening the second oil path to permit flow of oil from the first oil path to the second oil path”.

Therefore the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 based on Ksieski is not proper.

At least for the reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Ksieski. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, and 20 have been amended, and dependent claims 21-22 have been added. All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, as well as for the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

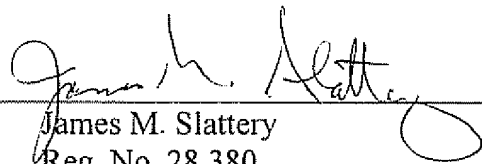
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.


If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (Direct Line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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